

a greater examination of both the 2004 request and how the supplemental funding will be used. I believe penalizing the 2004 request because of needed funds today will hamper the effectiveness of this program, particularly when it seems we may be turning the corner.

This request is designed to support our current efforts in Colombia, which are occurring at a significantly higher operational pace than was anticipated when the current fiscal year budget was developed. Since the fiscal year 2004 budget was created, we have seen a wave in urban bombings, the launch of a rescue mission for kidnapped American citizens, a significant increase in the violent attacks against our spray aircraft, and an increase in the violent attacks against President Uribe and other top Colombian officials. These increased threats need to be countered now, and require a revision in the original budget estimates on what will be spent both this fiscal year and next.

The supplemental funding is necessary to continue current operations at their current pace. By including the President's request in this bill, the committee is recognizing this need. But we should not penalize next year's efforts by counting this supplemental appropriations against the 2004 request. I strongly urge the committee to reconsider holding this needed supplemental funding for the Andean Counterdrug Initiative against the fiscal year 2004 request.

TRIBUTE TO GREG MASTEL

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to thank Greg Mastel for his work as the Finance Committee's chief trade adviser and chief economist during the 107th Congress.

I asked Greg to rejoin my staff in early 2001 with two specific goals in mind—significantly expanding the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program and reinstating fast-track trade negotiating authority for the President. To me, these are the twin pillars of U.S. trade policy. If the United States was to move beyond the logjam that had stalled progress on trade for nearly a decade, both of these programs needed to be in place.

Thanks in large part to Greg's hard work, both of those goals were achieved.

In August of last year, the President signed into law the Trade Act of 2002. Not only did it restore fast track to the President, it also created the largest expansion of Trade Adjustment Assistance in that program's history. And just for good measure, we renewed and expanded both the Andean Trade Preferences Act and the Generalized System of Preferences.

The Trade Act of 2002 is the most significant piece of trade legislation to come out of the Congress in over a decade. And it would not have happened without the skilled guidance and steady hand that Greg showed every step of the way.

Getting there wasn't easy. There were a lot of long nights and more than a few tense meetings. And for Greg, there were some personal challenges that didn't make the job any easier, but made his performance even more impressive.

Shortly before we went into conference with the House on the Trade Act, Greg suffered a nasty bicycling accident that left him with a broken collarbone, badly bruised ribs, and more sore muscles than I care to think about. But Greg was in the office every day, working through the pain and showing the same good humor that always made him such a pleasure to work with.

At the time, I called Greg "the Lance Armstrong of the Trade World"—although he probably needs to hone those biking skills. I stand by those comments. In conference negotiations, it is always a challenge to bridge the differences between Democrats and Republicans and between the Senate and the House. But to sit in a room negotiating the finer points of U.S. trade policy at 2 in the morning while fighting through the pain of broken collarbone takes a special kind of staffer.

Not only is Greg an expert on trade—he also understands the state of Montana. Greg is a true product of Montana. He grew up on a ranch outside of Missoula, where his childhood pursuits included hunting, camping, and archery. He is a graduate of Hellgate High School in Missoula, where he was a star second baseman on their baseball team.

He has never forgotten his roots in Montana. I have always felt that Greg's experiences back home gave him a feel for policy issues that cannot be learned.

And Greg has a long history with my office. He began as an intern in 1987, and within a few months became my youngest legislative assistance. His formal training as an economist made him a natural for covering international trade issues, vital for a State that depends on exporting its goods and services to markets around the globe. I relied on Greg to assist me with some of the most important issues to Montanans, including beef exports to Japan and wheat exports to China.

At various points, Greg has served as both my legislative director and my chief of staff. In each of these positions, he served with distinction through many years of trying to convince Montanans that trade was necessary and could be beneficial. He came up with the idea of trade missions and helped organize those to Asia and South America. Those missions did more to promote understanding than 100 speeches could have.

Greg also became an expert on U.S. trade laws, including many which he helped to draft. It was a natural that, after leaving my staff in 1994, Greg moved on to a distinguished career in academia and public policy. He is the author of three books dealing with

China, United States trade laws, and WTO negotiations, and has written a column for the *Journal of Commerce*.

Somewhere along the way, Greg and his wife Lois found the time to raise two beautiful children—Alexander and Caroline.

I was lucky to be able to lure him back for the 107th Congress to serve as my chief trade adviser on the Finance Committee.

Greg has been a wonderful friend to me and my staff over the years. I thank him for all of this hard work and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO VICTOR BAIRD

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, today I wish to speak on behalf of a man, Victor Baird, who, until recently, had probably one of the most thankless jobs in the Senate—Staff Director and Chief Counsel of the Senate Ethics Committee. In this position, Victor was charged with preserving the integrity of the Senate by policing the conduct of its Members and ensuring that the Senators and their staffs adhered to the Senate's high ethical standards.

The nature of the Ethics Committee is that the work we do remains confidential, except in the most egregious circumstances. Victor faced some of these circumstances and his guidance in steering the committee, the Senate, through them was invaluable. In general, though, most people didn't hear that much about Victor or the work he did in his 16 years on the committee, but to those of who sit on the committee or who have ever sat on the committee, we know that a lack of public exposure for the committee means that Victor was doing his job, and doing it well.

As I mentioned before, Victor was a 16 year veteran of the Senate Ethics Committee. He was first appointed to the committee by Senator Heflin in March 1987. He was acting Staff Director and Chief Counsel from October 1992 until March 1993 and became Staff Director and Chief Counsel from April 1993 until this January.

Before arriving in the Senate, Victor served in the United States Air Force and had a distinguished legal career in Georgia that included serving as an Assistant Attorney General in Georgia, as an Administrative Law Judge for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and on the Consumers' Utility Council of Georgia.

Victor's legal acumen, good nature, keen attention to detail, nonpartisan nature, and most of all, his integrity, all contributed to his success in the Senate. He will be missed by many. I thank him for his service to the United States Senate and to his country, and wish him God speed in all his journeys ahead.

TRIBUTE TO ARKANSAS GUARD AND RESERVES

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the American